

## Message Text

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43

ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ARA-06 EUR-12 EA-07 NEA-10 ISO-00 SSO-00

NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

SAM-01 OES-03 IOE-00 /096 W

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O 181525Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3439

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY SUVA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION USUN IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, UR, US, PR

SUBJECT: U.S. DEMARCHE ON PUERTO RICO IN COMMITTEE OF 24

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REF: A. STATE 195241 B. USUN 3684 C. STATE 194115

1. PURSUANT TO REF C, IN ABSENCE DEPUTY MINISTERS, I CALLED ON MFA USA DIVISION DIRECTOR KORNIYENKO AUGUST 18 AT 1415 MOSCOW TIME. REFERRING TO THE RESOLUTION ON PUERTO RICO SUBMITTED AUGUST 14 TO THE COMMITTEE OF 24, I SAID THE ISSUE WAS AN IMPORTANT ONE FOR US AND THAT WE HAD SERIOUS PROBLEMS WITH THIS RESOLUTION, BECAUSE IT WRONGLY IMPLIES THAT THE PUERTO RICAN PEOPLE HAVE NOT YET BEEN GIVEN AN OPPORUTNITY FOR SELF-DETERMINATION AND PROPOSES TO RECOGNIZE AS REPRESENTATIVES OF PUERTO RICAN ASPIRATIONS A SO-CALLED MOVEMENT WHICH HAS BEEN OVERWHELMINGLY REJECTED BY THE PUERTO RICANS THEMSELVES. I SAID I UNDERSTOOD A VOTE WOULD PROBABLY BE TAKEN TOMORROW.

2. I THEN WENT OVER THE POINTS CONTAINED IN PARAS A THROUGH D OF REF C, REVISED TO REFLECT ACTUAL TEXT OF RESOLUTION AS CONTAINED REF B AND DEPARTMENT'S COMMENTS REF A.

3. I THEN INFORMED KORNIYENKO I WAS INSTRUCTED TO SAY THAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD TAKE VERY STRONG EXCEPTION TO SUPPORT BY THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT FOR THIS RESOLUTION, AND THAT SUCH SUPPORT COULD NOT BE WITHOUT EFFECT ON OUR RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT.

4. AFTER ASKING ME TO REPEAT LANGUAGE OF STATEMENT IN PARA 3 ABOVE, KORNIYENKO REPLIED MILDLY THAT THE SOVIET POSITION ON THIS QUESTION WAS WELL-KNOWN TO THE U.S. THE SOVIET LEADERSHIP PROCEEDS FROM THE POSITION THAT THE 1960 DECOLONIZATION DECLARATION ALSO RELATES TO PUERTO RICO. (HE ALSO NOTED THAT THE 1973 SPECIAL REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF 24 HAD BEEN POSITIVELY RECEIVED BY THE UNGA.) THAT WAS A POSITION OF PRINCIPLE. PRACTICALLY, HE NOTED, THE SOVIETS ARE NOT VERY ACTIVE WITH REGARD TO THIS ISSUE.

5. KORNIYENKO, EMPHASIZING HE WAS SPEAKING "OFF THE CUFF", CONTRASTED OUR VIEWS ON PUERTO RICO WITH OUR STAND ON THE BALTIC REPUBLICS. THE U.S. RECOGNIZED THE USSR, AND THE BALTIC REPUBLICS WERE INTEGRAL PARTS OF THE USSR; NEVERTHELESS, THE U.S. SUPPORTED SO-CALLED REPRESENTATIVES OF THE BALTIC STATES IN WASHINGTON AND STATEMENTS ABOUT BALITC INDEPENDENCE WERE OFTEN MADE BY U.S. OFFICIALS, RECENTLY AT A VERY HIGH LEVEL. KORNIYENKO  
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SAID HE WAS NOT TYING THE QUESTION OF THE BALITC STATES TO PUERTO RICO, BUT WE SHOULD BE AWARE OF THEIR VIEWS ON THE BALTIC STATES.

6. KORNIYENKO REITERATED THAT THE SOVIETS HAD NOT BEEN TAKING A LEADING ROLE ON THE PUERTO RICAN QUESTION IN THE COMMITTEE OF 24 AND HE THOUGHT THE U.S. SHOULD NOT BE VERY DISSATISFIED WITH THE SOVIET POSITION. TO MENTION ITS ADVERSE EFFECT ON BILATERAL RELATIONS SEEMED EXAGGERATED, SINCE MANY MORE BASIC ISSUES WERE

IN PLAY. THE OFFICIAL SOVIET POSITION REMINED WHAT IT WAS, I.E., THAT THE 1960 DECOLONIZATION DECLARATION RELATED ALSO TO PUERTO RICO. KORNIYENKO SAID THIS COMMENTS CONSTITUTED A PRELIMINARY REACTION, AND HE WOULD OF COURSE PASS ON THE U.S. DEMARCHE TO HIS LEADERSHIP.

7. I AGAIN NOTED THE DEPTH OF FEELING RAISED BY THIS ISSUE, AND SAID I REGRETTED WHAT HE HAD SAID IF IT INDICATED THERE WOULD BE NO CHANGEIN THE SOVIET POSITION. WE BELIEVED THE RESOLTUION NOW BEFORE THE COMMITTEE OF 24, ESPECIALLY AS IT RELATED TO RECOGNITION OF A NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENT, IS UNACCEPTABLE. WITH REGARD TO HIS COMMENTS CONCERNING THE BALTIC REPUBLICS, I SAW NO CONNECTION BETWEEN THEM AND THE PUERTO RICAN ISSUE. KORNIYENKO REPLIED THAT HE WAS NOT LINKING THESE TWO QUESTIONS.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**To:** STATE  
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